

SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

YEAR 1938

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

S. T. COCHRANE, M.D., D.P.H.

INCORPORATING THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector,

ERIC A. AUSTERBERRY, M.S.I.A.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :

(Also Medical Officer to Derbyshire County Council Public Assistance Committee, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and also Public Vaccinator):

SAMUEL T. COCHRANE, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

(Including Inspector of Meat and Foods and Inspector under the Food and Drugs and Shops Acts):

ERIC A. AUSTERBERRY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certs. in Meat Inspection and in Sanitary Science of the R.S.I., Medallist of Institution of Sanitary Engineers. 1st Class (Special) Certificate of Civilian A.R.P. School.

Assistant :

E. GEOFFREY OSBORNE.

Health Visitors :

Misses STEVENS, FIELD and CORTON
(Employed by the Derbyshire County Council).

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Chairman : Councillor G. CLAMP, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor J. W. WARREN

Councillors J. Beard, G. W. Boss, B. Brealey, W. Brealey, E. C. Clamp, G. J. Davies, J. Davis, H. T. Forman, J.P., J. W. Freeman, H. Gregson, W. L. Insley, B. Martin, A. Plummer, H. M. Robinson, G. A. Sherlock, R. A. Warren

SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Swadlincote District Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting
to you the following Report upon the health
and sanitary condition of your District, for the
year ending December 31st, 1938.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

S. T. COCHRANE,

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1939

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Area of District in Acres (inclusive of water)	..	..	3,754
Population (Census 1931)	..	..	20,604
Population (Estimated to middle of 1937)	..	..	20,450
Population (Estimated to middle of 1938)	..	..	20,480
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1938)	..	..	5,397
Rateable Value	..	..	£79,043
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	£295

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births		1938			1937
		M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	.. ..	178	134	312	297
Illegitimate	.. ..	10	3	13	12
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		188	137	325	309
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Live Birth Rate	.. ..	15.9			15.1
Live Birth Rate (England and Wales)		15.1			14.9

Still Births		M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	.. ..	7	6	13	17
Illegitimate	.. ..	—	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		7	6	13	17
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per 1,000 total births	..	38.5			55.0

Deaths				M.	F.	Total	
				134	93	227	243
Death Rate	..	..	..		11.1		11.9
Death Rate (England and Wales)					11.6		12.4
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child birth :							
From Sepsis	..	..			Nil		Nil
From other causes		..			1		Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births :			1938	1937
Legitimate	..	..	54.5	50.5
			(M 10 F. 7)	
Illegitimate	..	..	—	83.8
			(M. 0 F. 0)	
Total Rate	..	..	54.5	51.7
Deaths from Cancer	..	..	29	23
„ Heart Disease	..	..	67	70
„ Measles (all ages)	..		Nil	Nil
„ Whooping Cough	..		Nil	1
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			1	Nil

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of population at the middle of 1938 is 20,480, which is an increase of 30 over the previous year's estimate.

Births.

The birth rate of 15.9 is the highest rate recorded since 1930, and is higher than that for England and Wales (15.1).

The still births are lower than for the previous year.

Deaths.

The death rate of 11.1 is a reduction on last year, and is lower than that for England and Wales (11.6).

There was again a large number of deaths from heart disease, although the figure of 67 represented a slight decrease on the number for 1937.

There was an increase in the number of deaths from cancer, but whereas in 1937 there were 15 influenza deaths, none was recorded in 1938.

The infantile mortality rate of 54.5 per 1,000 births is higher than in 1937, and is slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales (53), but lower than that for the 126 Great Towns (57).

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Infectious Diseases.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are removed to the Isolation Hospital at Etwall which is controlled at the present time by a Joint Committee of 14 members, elected as follows :—

By the Repton Rural District Council .. 8 members

By the Swadlincote District Urban District
Council 6 „

Small-Pox.

With a view to the provision of adequate hospital accommodation for the treatment of this disease, the County Council has included Swadlincote in an area comprising 13 County Districts, and the minimum number of beds prescribed for the whole of this area is 12.

Tuberculosis.

Persons suffering from this disease are treated in the Sanatoria and Orthopaedic Hospitals of the County Council.

Institutional Provision for the care of Mental Defectives :—

The care of these cases is the concern of the County Council, which, in addition to having several certified Institutions under its own control, also provides accommodation by contract with other certified Institutions.

Poor Medical Out Relief :—

There has been no general change in the administration of these services, which are carried out by the Derbyshire County Council Public Assistance Committee. Local administration is carried out by a Local Committee.

Nursing in the Home :—

The Swadlincote District Nursing Association provides the full time services of two qualified Nurses resident in the district, who attend Medical and Surgical Cases at the homes of the patients.

Midwives :—

There are 7 Midwives resident and practising in the district, no arrangement being made or subsidies granted by the Urban District Council.

Laboratory Facilities :—

Specimens in respect of enterica, diphtheria, and phthisis are forwarded to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Maternity and Nursing Home :—

There has been no change in these services or those provided for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children. These are received into the Burton Infirmary or the Derbyshire County Council's Public Assistance Committee's Belvedere Hospital, Burton-on-Trent.

Ambulance Facilities :—

Infectious disease cases are removed by the Joint Hospital Board to their Hospital in a motor ambulance, also non-infectious cases to the Burton-on-Trent Infirmary. Local Collieries provide ambulances for their own use and for other cases, under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Miners' Welfare Union.

The existing service is adequate to meet the normal requirements of the district.

Clinic and Treatment Centres :—

The Derbyshire County Council has provided a modern building for the holding of Clinics. It is open daily for various purposes which are :—

Daily	9.0 to 10.0	..	..	Minor Ailments.
Monday	10.0 to 12.30	..	..	Minor Ailments.
„	2.0 to 4.30	..	..	Infant Welfare Centre.
Tuesday	all day	..	..	Orthopaedic.
3rd Wednesday	all day	..	..	Eye Clinic.
4th Thursday		..	..	Eye Clinic.
1st and 3rd Fridays	2.0 to 4.30	..		Ante Natal Clinic.
2nd and 4th Wednesday	Mornings			Dental Clinics, Anaesthetic Clinics.

The remaining Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays are used by the Dentist for her Clinics. Saturday mornings, 9.30 to 12.0, Minor Ailments. All Clinic services are improving steadily and greater confidence is established between the Derbyshire County Council's Officials and the general public.

Health Week :—

Health Week was held, as usual, in October ; a Public Conference was held in the Town Hall, and discussions on various aspects of Public Health were opened by various speakers, including Nurse Wilson and Mr. Austerberry.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply :—

The Water Supply is derived from the Bunter Sandstone measures to the south of Milton village. It is collected, and conveyed by a cast iron main, to the waterworks at Milton, a distance of nearly two miles, and is delivered by gravitation into the softening tanks, where it is treated, and the hardness reduced to approximately 7–9 degrees.

It is then taken up by an electrically driven turbine, capable of delivering a million gallons daily, and delivered through 18-inch pipes to the service reservoir at Hartshorne, a distance of five miles.

At certain periods the available supplies of water were found to be insufficient for the requirements of the district, and arrangements were made by the Joint Committee for an auxiliary supply to meet the temporary deficiency from the Chilcote Waterworks of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. The Joint Committee are taking steps permanently to augment the supplies at Milton.

The quality of the water was not consistently good throughout the year, analyses of several samples having proved somewhat unsatisfactory. A chlorinator and an ammoniator have been installed, with the result that the water now is both chemically and bacteriologically of a high quality.

The average daily consumption of water during the year was 386,945 gallons.

A few houses in the outlying parts of the district derive their water from wells, but there appears to have been no shortage of supply during the year.

The following length of new water main was laid in Meadow Lane, Newhall :

300 yards of 3 inch main.

Rivers and Streams.

No complaints were received of pollution of rivers or streams, but with modern sewage disposal works and satisfactory outfall sewers, it is unlikely that the unsatisfactory conditions which previously obtained, will recur.

All brook courses into which the surface water from the Council's roads discharges, are periodically cleansed by the Council, and during times of heavy rainfall, no danger from flooding arises.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The bulk of the sewage of the Area is disposed of at the Stanton Sewage Works, which are designed to serve a population of 22,000, with a dry weather flow of 550,000 gallons.

The works comprise Detritus and Screening Tanks, Sedimentation Tanks, having a total capacity of 16 hours' flow, eight bacteria beds 90 feet in diameter, storm water tanks, and sludge drying beds.

The average daily flow to the works at the present time is 360,000 gallons.

In addition to the Stanton works, there are two other installations in the district for the disposal of sewage ; one is Cappy Lane Farm, where the sewage of 280 houses in Castle Gresley is treated on land, and the other is a small installation off Railway Side, Church Gresley, where the sewage of 90 houses in Common Road, Common Side, and Pool Street and district, is dealt with. The latter installation merely comprises a series of brick tanks, the effluent from which overflows into the stream nearby.

A few isolated groups of houses are served by small septic tank installations, and the drainage from several new houses which were completed during the year, was also disposed of in this way.

Schools :—

There are 9 schools within the Urban District, each of which was inspected.

None was closed on account of infectious disease.

Trough closets at two of the schools were replaced by water closets.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

During 1938 considerable strides were made in the work of organising Civil Defence, and as duties under Air Raid Precautions Schemes must be regarded as falling within the normal duties of Councils' officers, it is appropriate that I should include in this Report some mention of the local First Aid and Casualty Service, for which, as Medical Officer of Health, I am responsible.

Several schemes were worked out, and either modified or drastically altered, but it seems now that a scheme has been finally devised which would function effectively in emergency, and the following is an outline :

The two First Aid Posts which would be the headquarters of the Service have been determined ; they are—

Sunnyside School, Newhall, and

York Road School, Church Gresley.

Both schools have been adapted so that they could very readily be transferred into establishments equipped to deal with the various types of casualty (gas contaminated and uncontaminated) that air attack might cause. The staff for each Post would be 7 men, 33 women, with 25% in reserve.

First Aid Parties :—

6 First Aid Parties, each comprising 5 men, would work from the Posts.

Ambulances :—

The Scheme provides for 9 ambulances ; most of these would have to be improvised, and any tradesman's van sufficiently large to take a standard stretcher would be suitable for the purpose.

In addition, 6 cars would be required for "sitting" casualties, and 6 cars for the transport of the First Aid Parties.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1938.

	Total Cases Notified 1938	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	38	10	—
Diphtheria	82	23	2
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Erysipelas	16	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—
Pneumonia	42	—	9

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1938.

[illegible]

INFANTILE MORTALITY BY CAUSES.

	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths over 1 Month and under 1 Year
Haemophilia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Inanition ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	2	—	2	2	1	—	1	4
Spina Befida	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
Gastro Enteritis ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	2	2	—	8	3	4	—	2	9

TABLE A. TUBERCULOSIS. 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
5—10 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 ..	2	1	2	—	—	1	3	—
20—25 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
35—45 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65—over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	6	2	5	2	2	2	4	1

TABLE B. CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.

Causes of Death	All Ages		Total	Mortality
	M.	F.		Rate per 1,000 Pop.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	2	—	2	.1
Influenza	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	2	2	4	.2
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	4	1	5	.24
Syphilis	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	15	14	29	1.41
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	3	1	4	.2
Cerebral Hemorrhage	8	7	15	.73
Heart Disease	33	34	67	3.27
Aneurysm	—	—	—	—
Other circulatory diseases	5	2	7	.34
Bronchitis	7	1	8	.39
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	3	9	.44
Other Respiratory diseases	2	1	3	.15
Peptic Ulcer	4	—	4	.2
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ..	—	1	1	.05
Appendicitis	1	—	1	.05
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1	1	.05
Other diseases of Liver, etc.	—	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	4	—	4	.2
Acute and chronic Nephritis	2	3	5	.24
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	1	1	.05
Congenital debility, premature birth malformations, etc.	5	1	6	.29
Senility	6	13	19	.93
Suicide	5	1	6	.29
Other violence	4	—	4	.2
Other defined diseases	15	5	20	.98
Causes ill-defined or unknown ..	1	1	2	.1
Totals	134	93	227	11.1

Table D.—BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN THE YEAR, 1938.

England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 148 Smaller Towns and London.

(Provisional figures).

	Rate per 1,000 Population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.							Rate per 1,000 Live Births.		
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One Year.
England and Wales ..	15.1	0.60	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	5.5	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ..	15.0	0.65	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	7.8	57
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000—50,000)	15.4	0.60	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	3.6	51
Census 1931 ..	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	13.1	57
London ..	15.9	0.63	11.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	55
Swadlincote ..												

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales

Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
.... 0.89	2.19	3.08

are as follows:

per 1,000 Live Births	Total Births	
.. ..	.. ..	2.97
per 1,000 Live Births	Total Births	3.08
.. ..	.. ..	2.9

Swadlincote

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1938

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
of the
SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Report upon the work of my Department for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

Infectious Diseases :—

The number of cases of infectious disease notified was again higher than average, but whilst in 1937 Scarlet Fever was prevalent, 1938 saw a high incidence of Diphtheria.

The following table shows the comparison of cases notified during the past three years.

<i>Disease</i>	1938	1937	1936
Scarlet Fever	35	82	24
Diphtheria	83	23	22
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid Fever)	—	—	2

Once again the Diphtheria cases were mainly confined to the Stanton and Newhall Ward, and the following table shows the distribution of infection of the two chief Zymotic Diseases over the three Wards of the Urban District.

<i>Ward.</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>
Stanton and Newhall	15	56
Swadlincote	7	14
Church Gresley	13	13

An inspection was made on the receipt of every notification, and where it was considered that the home conditions would not allow of satisfactory isolation, arrangements for the removal to hospital of the patient, were made. In every instance, disinfection was carried out on recovery of the patient, or immediately following removal to hospital.

Closet Accommodation :—

During the year advantage was taken of the additional powers given by the Public Health Act, 1936, to require the conversion of the insanitary type of convenience (slop and trough closets) into water closets.

Notices were served under Section 47 of the Act, and the conversions were done at the instance of the Council, who paid one-half of the cost involved.

	£	s.	d.
43 Slop Closets were converted at a total cost of	286	15	0
7 trough „ „ „ „ „ „	37	0	6
2 Privy „ „ „ „ „ „	29	3	0
1 Hand-flushed Closet was converted at a total cost of	4	14	0
6 Trough Closets at one of the factories were converted voluntarily.			

The approximate numbers of the varying types of sanitary conveniences in the Urban District at the end of the year were :

Water Closets	5,759
Trough Closets	68
Pail Closets	23
Privies	45

The trough closets are situate mainly at the factories and schools.

The pail and privy closets are situate chiefly in the outlying districts, away from the sewers, and it is not possible, at the present time, to convert them into water closets.

The sanitary accommodation at a number of the factories is still far from satisfactory.

Domestic Refuse : Storage and Collection :—

The only ashpits which now remain in use are situate in outlying areas where the approach roads are bad, and these are cleansed periodically. With these exceptions, every house has a covered portable dustbin, which is emptied weekly.

The refuse is still disposed of by tipping—controlled tipping in Swadlincote and Newhall, and crude tipping in Church Gresley.

We were unfortunate in having a plague of crickets on the Swadlincote tip in the summer, and this caused serious trouble to the nearby residents, but the tip was systematically treated with liquid vermicides, and quantities of vermicide powder were freely distributed to the occupiers of houses affected.

Summary.

Number of ashpits abolished	.. .. .	2
Number of buildings provided with dustbins in lieu of ashpits	.. .. .	2
Number of dilapidated dustbins replaced		
(a) by Council for owners	.. .. .	122
(b) by owners	.. .. .	110
Number of statutory notices served (ashpits and dustbins)		21
Total amount of refuse collected throughout the year	..	8,390 tons
Total amount of refuse collection per 1,000 of the population		409 tons
Total cost of collection	.. .. .	£2,310
Cost of Collections per ton	.. .. .	5/6
Total cost of disposal	.. .. .	£869
Cost of disposal per ton	.. .. .	2/1

Drainage :—

All drainage work, whether for new or existing buildings, is subject to my supervision.

Wherever possible, every new length of drain was tested by an exacting smoke pressure test, and good workmanship was continued.

Length of 6 in. drain laid	.. .. .	829 yds.
Length of 4 in. drain laid	.. .. .	2,653 yds.
Number of new Water Closets fixed	.. .. .	207
„ Soil-pipes fixed	.. .. .	43
„ Inspection Chambers provided	.. .. .	107
„ Connections made to the Council sewer		31
„ Buildings drained to septic tanks	..	5

Shops and Office Inspection :—

Routine inspections were made of the shops in the District, to ensure that the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to hours of employment of young persons, and conditions of employment, were being observed.

During the two preceding years many improvements had been effected, and it was not necessary during 1938 to draw attention to many infringements of the Act.

The vexed question of the heating of shops, more particularly food shops, is however one that has not yet been satisfactorily settled, mainly because of the loose wording of the Act, which gives no greater guidance than to require that a “reasonable temperature” shall be maintained.

During the year 10 offices were inspected under the appropriate provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and were found to be satisfactory.

Shops (Sunday Trading) Restriction Act, 1936. On the 1st February, 1938, the portions of this Act restricting the sale of groceries on Sunday came into force. Shops likely to be affected by this restriction were visited, and information given regarding this, and the display of the necessary notices.

Closing Hours. The provisions of the Shops Act, 1928, relating to hours of closing, were on the whole observed, although warnings were given in a number of cases.

Offensive Trades :—

The only offensive trade which has been established in the district is that of fish-frying, and there are 23 premises licensed for this purpose.

All premises were inspected during the year, and generally it was found that the trade was being carried on satisfactorily, and no complaints of nuisance were received.

Camping Sites :—

No sites are used for camping purposes, and no licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement :—

Several observations of factory chimneys were taken during the year, when it was observed that excessive quantities of smoke were being emitted.

Informal representations to the companies concerned were made, with requests to keep down the emissions, but no statutory action was taken.

Swimming Baths and Pools :—

There are at present no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area, although the Council has under consideration the provisions of a public bath under the campaign for National Fitness.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The number of houses found to be infested was :—

(a) Council Houses	..	..	..	..	..	4
(b) Other Houses	..	..	..	..	..	13

and all these were disinfested.

The method adopted is the treatment of the bedding in the steam disinfector, and the spraying of the parts of the house and furniture likely to be infested, with a proprietary vermicide—"Zaldecide."

Before a family is re-housed, a careful inspection is made and, if infestation is found, the furniture and effects are treated as stated above. This work is carried out by the Council directly.

Visits are subsequently made to ensure that no re-infestation has occurred.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 :—

The administration of this Act continued to receive attention, as there were numerous indications of a rat population in the District. Applications for advice and assistance were received, and, where possible, premises were visited, and supplies of rat biscuits were freely distributed.

Serious infestation of the refuse tips and at the sewage works was checked by the use of calcium cyanide, a poisonous powder which is blown into the rat runs.

Rat Week.

As in former years, the first week in November was set apart as National Rat Week. Large attractive posters were placed in conspicuous places throughout the district, and the occupiers of premises liable to rat infestation were communicated with, and advised of their legal obligation, and of the best known methods of rat destruction.

Factories Act, 1937 :—

The above Act came into force during the year under review.

Its purpose is twofold—to consolidate the law, which since 1901 had been embodied in a large number of statutes, and also to revise it in accordance with the progressing standards of industrial life.

All workplaces affected by the Act are termed “factories,” and the old distinction between factories and workshops is abolished.

The duties of the local authority under the new Act are to enforce the provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, and drainage, at factories not using mechanical power, sanitary conveniences at all factories, and means of escape from fire.

- (a) where more than 20 persons are employed.
- (b) in factories constructed after June, 1937, where more than 10 persons are employed above the ground floor
- (c) in factories constructed before June, 1937, where more than 10 persons are employed above the first floor, or more than 20 feet above ground level, or
- (d) in or under which explosive or highly inflammable materials are stored or used.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power ..	20	5	—
Factories without mechanical power ..	25	4	—
† Other Premises under the act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises).	4	1	—
Total	49	10	—

Number of premises inspected with regard to
means of escape from fire 12

Number of factories where certificates were issued .. 8

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecu- tions were in- stituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspection (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ..	—	—	—	
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ..	—	—	—	
Sanitary { insufficient	1	1	—	
Conveniences { unsuitable or defective	5	2	—	
(S. 7) { not separate for sexes	—	—	—	
Other offences	1	1	—	
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total	10	7	—	

Homeworkers :—

During the months of February and August lists of homeworkers were furnished, i.e., list of persons carrying on at home those classes of work specified by Order of the Home Office.

All the premises were inspected, and found to be quite satisfactory.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

During the year under review Air Raid Precautions came forward as one of the important responsibilities of local authorities—responsibilities not extraneous to the ordinary functions of local government, and the duties were assigned to the local government officers.

I found that an increasing amount of my time was taken up with A.R.P. work, especially on my return as a qualified instructor from the Government Anti-Gas School in May last.

My reason for making reference to this work is in extenuation of the fact that other branches of the work have perhaps not received the attention normally given to them, although nothing of vital importance has been overlooked.

The part assigned to me in the A.R.P. Scheme is that of Executive Officer in charge of Decontamination, and the Scheme provides that there shall be 2 Decontamination Squads for this Area.

During the year, however, in addition to training the Decontamination Squads, and other Council employees in anti-gas measures, I assisted in the work of organising the Air Raid Wardens—which took a considerable amount of time—and also conducted courses of instruction for volunteers, and the examination of instructors, on behalf of the County Council.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Summary.

Dwelling Houses :—

Roofs repaired	28
Houses repointed	195
Chimneys repaired	89
Spouting repaired or renewed	58
Ceilings replastered	39
Walls replastered	170
Floors repaired or relayed	121
Window frames repaired or new frames provided	140
Doors and door frames repaired	72
Fireplaces repaired or rebuilt	59
Washing coppers provided or repaired	21
New sinks provided	46
Houses provided with separate internal supply of Town's water	52
New wash-houses provided	7
Wash-houses repaired	20
Yard paving repaired	125
Dampness remedied	133
Staircases repaired	59
Foodstores repaired	39

Drainage, etc. :—

Drains cleansed	..	..	..	..	36
Drains relayed or repaired	..	..	..	..	25
New drains provided	..	..	..	..	19
Inspection chambers repaired	..	..	..	..	3

Closet Accommodation :—

Water closet fittings repaired	..	..	..	23
Water closet structures repaired	..	..	..	36
New water closets provided	..	..	..	1

Domestic Refuse :—

New ashbins provided	..	..	..	222
Houses where Ashpits abolished and bins provided				2

Other Nuisances :—

Offensive accumulations removed	7
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During the year 249 complaints were received and investigated.

HOUSING.

Very soon after my appointment it became apparent to me that I should serve the district most usefully by paying particular attention to housing conditions, and I have endeavoured to do this during the past three years.

After expressing disappointment in my report for 1937 on the slow progress made, it is gratifying to be able to record that during 1938 a distinct step forward was taken in the task of removing the bad spots of housing which still remain.

After a very careful examination of the problem, including inspections by Sub-Committees, a decision was reached to proceed with the clearance of 143 houses, included in 43 Clearance Areas, and the necessary Orders were made.

This number did not represent the whole of the houses reported upon as unfit, but considering the size of the District, it is a fairly large scheme to put through in one stage.

It will have served to focus attention upon housing conditions, and to have established beyond doubt the principle of clearing away houses which have never been, and never could be, made fit to live in, and replacing them by houses so designed and equipped that a full family life is possible in them.

It will have demonstrated, too, that ideas on Town Planning which are held are something more than theoretical ideals, and that replanning of housing conditions is at least as vital as other more spectacular schemes of civic improvement.

During the year a scheme was prepared for the erection of 108 houses and 16 bungalows on a site between Oversetts Road and Meadow Lane, Newhall, and when completed the scheme will be a distinct addition to our housing estates.

The urgent need for these houses will be seen when I mention that many cases of overcrowding revealed by the Survey in 1936 still remain untouched, and houses included in Clearance Orders made in the same year still stand occupied.

It would perhaps be as well for me to emphasize the pressing need for a new housing scheme for Church Gresley, but I understand full well the difficulties encountered in finding a suitable site.

In furthering housing improvements, attention was not confined to "demolitions"; inspection was made of many houses which, whilst being unfit, were considered capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense, and notices were served in each case, requiring the execution of the necessary repairs.

In most instances compliance was secured by the service of informal notices, and in comparatively few instances was it necessary to serve statutory notices.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(1) By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	—
(2) By private enterprise	..	..	..	..	122

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

i. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	234
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..					236

ii. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head [1] above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925						194
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iii. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation :—

(a) In Clearance Areas	..	..			83
(b) Individual	..	..	..	..	6
					— 89

iv. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	143
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2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices :—	
i. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	91
ii. Number of defective dwelling-houses in respect of which repairs were in progress at the end of the year	65
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—	
(A) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
i. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	11
ii. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	0
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
i. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	22
ii. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	20
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	0
(C) Proceedings under sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
i. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
ii. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8
iii. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Orders	17
(D) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
i. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	0
ii. Number of separate tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :—

(A) (i)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year :—	
	(a) Stanton and Newhall	38
	(b) Swadlincote	25
	(c) Church Gresley	39
		— 102
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	116
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	832
(B)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(C) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	31

MILK SUPPLY

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :—

Inspections were made of all cowsheds and dairies in the Area, and the hygienic standard previously recorded was continued.

As in the previous year, four farms were licensed by the County Council for the production of Accredited Milk.

The present state of the register is as follows :—

Number of	Cowkeepers	29
„	Dairies	44
„	Cows (estimated)	210
„	Wholesale Producers	5
„	Retail Purveyors :	
	(a) Within the District	38
	(b) Without the District	25

The following is a short summary of the improvements effected :

Cowsheds	provided with new floors and channels ..	2
„	where lighting and ventilation improved ..	2
„	where approach paving was repaired	2
„	which were cleaned up	36
„	where manure dump was improved	3
Farms	where dairies were built or improved	1
The number of inspections made to cowsheds and dairies was		81

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 :—

At the end of the year the following licences had been granted :

Bottling Licence	1
Dealers' Licence	1
Supplementary Licences	9

School Milk :—

Many of the school children are supplied each morning with milk, the bulk of which is Pasteurised, a small quantity being Accredited.

Milk is also being delivered daily to certain of the works for consumption by the workpeople, and it is to be hoped that this will increase.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughterhouses :—

The number of slaughterhouses in use at the end of the year was :

Registered Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	10
Licensed Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	13

All these premises were regularly inspected, the total number of inspections made being 1,195.

Inspections were also made of premises where food is prepared for sale, and I cannot say that I am entirely satisfied with the conditions existing at several of the premises. The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, however, will soon be in force, and will tighten up the regulations for food premises, and also other aspects affecting food supply.

I made inspections of shops, market stalls, and vehicles, from which meat and other foods are sold. Three stalls are occupied by butchers who bring in meat from neighbouring districts.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	169	695	98	1982	1859
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ..	4	34	1	4	4
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- eases other than tuber- culosis	2.4	4.9	1.02	0.2	0.2
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	25	251	—	—	116
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	14.8	36.1	—	—	6.2

The diseased meat was disposed of in the incinerator at the Council Depot.

Bakehouses :—

There are 16 bakehouses within the Area of the Urban District.

All of these were regularly inspected, and whilst the majority were found to be satisfactory on hygienic grounds, it was still found necessary in several instances, to draw attention to evidences of insufficient cleanliness.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act :—

The County Analyst has been kind enough to furnish particulars of the samples taken under this Act in the Urban District.

During the year 91 samples were taken, 41 of which were milk.

One sample of Boric Ointment was somewhat deficient in Boric Acid and the vendor was cautioned.

One sample of Marmalade was found to contain either apple or turnip, the article was subsequently withdrawn from sale.

In concluding, I should like to thank the members of the Council for their continued confidence, and the Clerk for his counsel and co-operation.

I must also acknowledge the services of Mr. Osborne, whose loyal co-operation has made possible much of the work recorded in this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ERIC A. AUSTERBERRY,

Sanitary Inspector.

May, 1939.

